

"People helping people help themselves" **Division of Mental Health and Addiction** 402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W353 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2739

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Anne Waltermann Murphy, Secretary

April 24, 2009

Dear Community Stakeholder,

The Indiana Division of Mental Health & Addiction has created 10 Indiana District Disaster Mental Health Response Teams. The team(s) will respond to regional and possibly state and national declarations of disaster. They will administer psychological first aid and crisis counseling to other disaster responders and victims. Each member has completed a full day training session (with certification) and a FEMA National Incident Management System course.

The District Teams will continually meet to create, exercise and modify the Disaster Response Plans for their region. All community stakeholders (business, education, government, social services, etc.) are encouraged and welcomed to participate in these meetings.

The recent experiences of flooding and tornados that have affected much of Indiana this past year has emphasized the desperate need for crisis counselors at the scene of a disaster. We would appreciate your support for the Indiana Mental Health Disaster Response Team by your participation on the District Team.

If you need more information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

## Andrew P Klatte

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